

old women remained day and night, all the ceilings and windows, which were white-washed, were entirely covered with a green mouldy coat of *Penicillium glaucum*, whilst all the walls, which were painted in oil, were completely lined with a black and white mould, which presented the same *A. nigricans* as the patient's ear, only under the form of *Achorion* (according to Hallier). But a single cultivation in glycerine or on lemon sufficed to change it into a plant with well-developed sporanges. Washing the walls and ceilings with a solution of hypochlorite of lime, which was also employed in the ear, and the establishment of good ventilation, speedily put an end to the sufferings of the patient, upon whom all my therapeutical resources had previously failed.—*Comptes Rendus*, August 26, 1867, pp. 368–371.

The Theory of the Skeleton.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Absence from town has prevented me from seeing the 'Annals of Natural History' since July.

I have but a few words to say in reply to Mr. Seeley's letter in your August Number.

Any one who chooses to be at the trouble of reading the two pages in the 'Medico-Chirurgical Review,' from which Mr. Seeley extracts seven lines, will find as definite an outline of the theory of mechanical genesis of vertebræ as could be put in the short space available.

If he is at the further trouble of referring to the 'Principles of Biology,' §§ 254–258, he will find what Mr. Seeley chooses to call "vague hypothesis." Where Mr. Seeley "did not notice that these 'incident forces' (producing vertebral structure) were defined," he will see specified and illustrated by diagrams the particular incident forces which produce differentiation of the vertebrate axis from surrounding tissues, the particular incident forces which cause segmentation of it, and the particular incident forces which cause ossification to commence at the places where it does commence.

If, once more, he turns to § 301 (which I suppose Mr. Seeley overlooked), he will find definitely specified the particular physiological actions through which pressures and tensions cause the formation of bone.

Here, so far as I am concerned, the controversy must end.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours, &c.,

HERBERT SPENCER.